

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, JA

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON U.S.-JAPAN
PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE HAS SCHEDULED HEARINGS ON THE RESOLUTION SUB-
MITTED BY SENATORS GLENN AND ROTH TO AUTHORIZE A U.S.-
JAPAN PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THE
ONES THAT CONGRESS HAS WITH CANADA, MEXICO AND NATO.

2. I STRONGLY SUPPORT AN EXPANSION OF CONTACTS BETWEEN
AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN AND JAPANESE DIET MEMBERS AS A
KEY MEANS OF INSURING THAT EACH SIDE GAINS A GREATER
APPRECIATION OF THE POLITICAL REALITIES OPERATING ON
THE OTHER SIDE. MY EXPERIENCE SO FAR IN JAPAN LEADS
ME TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT UNDERSTAND-
ING HERE OF THE POWER AND INFLUENCE OF THE CONGRESS.
I SUSPECT THAT SOME OF MY FORMER COLLEAGUES IN CONGRESS
SIMILARLY MAY NOT BE FULLY AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF THE DIET IN INFLUENCING THE DECISIONS OF THE
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ON VERY IMPORTANT BILATERAL
ISSUES.

3. I AGREE WITH THE SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTION THAT
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THE ESTABLISHMENT BY CONGRESS OF A FORMAL BODY TO
CONDUCT EXCHANGES WITH JAPAN SHOULD HELP INSURE THAT
THESE EXCHANGES BECOME MORE FREQUENT AND MORE BROAD-
BASED. THE ONE CAUTIONARY NOTE I WOULD SOUND IS THAT,
IN MY MIND, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ANY FORMAL EXCHANGE
MECHANISMS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN BE SUPRA-PARTISAN,
OR AS WIDELY REPRESENTATIVE AS FEASIBLE, AND BE

CONCERNED WITH THE BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES WHICH LINK OUR
TWO GREAT DEMOCRATIC NATIONS. I HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD
THE VARIOUS GROUPS OF DIET MEMBERS, USUALLY REPRESENTING
A SINGLE PARTY, WHO HAVE ASKED MY SUPPORT FOR REGULARIZED
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE
U.S. CONGRESS TO VOTE FOR A FORMAL SYSTEM THAT WAS
NOT SUPRA-PARTISAN. THIS IS, OF COURSE, THE WAY IN
WHICH OUR MEXICAN, CANADIAN AND NATO PARLIAMENTARY
EXCHANGES ARE STRUCTURED.
MANSFIELD

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